



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS,  
TRIBAL AND PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS

May 5, 2014

Jessie Berner, District Ranger  
Powers Ranger District  
42861 Highway 242  
Powers, Oregon 97466-9700

Re: EPA Region 10 Comments on the Eden Ridge Timber Sales Final Environmental Impact Statement, EPA Project Number 10-023-AFS

Dear Mr. Berner:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the proposed Eden Ridge Timber Sales Project on the Powers Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in Coos County, Oregon. Our review was conducted in accordance with the EPA responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The FEIS analyzes a no action alternative and three action alternatives that would harvest timber through variable density thinning and conduct connected activities on approximately 3,314 acres. This harvest could contribute approximately 50 million board feet (mmbf) of timber over five years. Additionally, the action alternatives would selectively treat the planning area for two forest pathogens: Port-Orford-Cedar root disease (*Phytophthora lateralis*) and laminated root rot (*Phellinus weirii*). Alternative 2, which maximizes potential treatment areas, was the proposed action in the Draft EIS and is the basis for the preferred alternative in the FEIS. In the ROD, a modified Alternative 2 is proposed for selection. The modifications are intended to reduce the overall impact of Alternative 2, particularly as those impacts relate to hydrologic conditions; soils and geology; and site productivity.

In our May 2012 comments on the DEIS, we indicated support for the project, but recommended that the Forest incorporate elements of Alternative 3 into the final preferred alternative, particularly within the Coal Creek drainage. We also recommended minor revisions to assumptions about the width of the primary shade zone based on site potential tree height. Lastly we recommended the inclusion of additional information related to mitigation for road construction, removal and rehabilitation.

We believe the Forest has been responsive to our concerns and recommendations. In particular, we appreciate the modifications to the primary shade zone widths that were incorporated into the FEIS and ROD. We also appreciate the Forest's thoughtful approach to sensitive areas within the Coal Creek Watershed. Based on our review of the FEIS and ROD, we support the direction under Modified Alternative 2.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the FEIS. If you have any questions about our review, please contact me at (206) 553-1601, or by electronic mail at [reichgott.christine@epa.gov](mailto:reichgott.christine@epa.gov). Or you may contact Teresa Kubo of my staff at (503) 326-2859 or by electronic mail at [kubo.teresa@epa.gov](mailto:kubo.teresa@epa.gov) .

Sincerely,

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit